Message Text

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------042373 260502Z /16 R 260308Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 621

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 18047

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PINS, TH, BM

SUBJECT: PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZEN REPORTEDLY OFFERS ARMS TO

BURMESE DISSIDENTS

1. AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI REPORTS THAT ANTHONY SCALISE, A PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZEN, MET WITH AN OFFICER OF THE KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ARMY (KIA) ON MAY 30 AND JUNE 4 AND OFFERED TO SELL ARMS TO BOTH THE KIA AND THE KAREN NATIONAL UNIO (KNU), BURMESE DISSIDENT ORGANIZATIONS. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION OBTAINED BY THE CONSUL, SCALISE (ALSO REFERRED TO AS CHASAISE BY A THAI SOURCE) IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A GUN MERCHANT AND CLAIMED TO HAVE MAFIA CONNECTIONS. SCALISE IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE USED THE NAME OF R.J. MORGAN. HE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED HE WAS ABOUT TO DEPART FOR SAUDI ARABIA, WHERE HE HAD STORED STOCKS OF WEAPONS WHICH WERE AVAILABLE FOR SALE. HE REPORTEDLY TOLD THE KIA REPRESENTATIVES THAT HE WOULD CONFIDENTIAL.

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BE BACK IN THAILAND IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

2. SCALISE REPORTEDLY ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD A CONTRACT WITH THE RTG FOR WAR MATERIALS WHICH WOULD BE DELIVERED IN DECEMBER, 1978. (JUSMAG HAS NO RPT NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY TRANSACTION WITH SCALISE. THAI ARMY CURRENTLY HAS NO M-16 RIFLES OR AMMUNITION ON ORDER. THAI MARINES ARE IN

EARLY STAGE OF PROCURRING M-16'S, BUT SCALISE ALLEGATION APPEARS TO REFER TO ORDER ALREADY PLACED.) SCALISE REPORTEDLY STATED TO THE KIA GROUP THAT WHEN HE RETURNED HE WOULD HAVE A LIST OF AVAILABLE ARMS AND DETAILED PRICE QOUTES. HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE M-16'S AT US DOLS 200 EACH AND M-16 AMMUNITION AT 15 CENTS PER ROUND. HE ALLEGEDLY PROMISED THAT DELIVERIES COULD BE MADE TO THE DISSIDENT GROUPS AT THE SAME TIME AS DELIVERIES WOULD BE MADE TO THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT. SCALISE IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE MET WITH A COL. SAMPON OF THE KACHIN NATIONAL UNION AT THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL DURING HIS STAY IN BANGKOK.

3. CONSUL STATES THAT AMERICAN CITIZEN MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT IS ALMOST CERTAINLY ANTHONY SCALISE, ALIAS ARTHUR KENT SOUNDERS. SCALISE'S ACTIVITIES IN BANGKOK AND CHIANG MAI RECENTLY BROUGHT HIM TO THE ATTENTION OF DEA AGENTS IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO DEA INDICATES THAT SCALISE HAS CLAIMED MAFI CONNECTIONS IN THE PAST. HE HAS ALSO BEEN AN INFORMANT FOR THE SECRET SERVICE, AND THERE IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT SUGGESTS HE MAY BE A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE.

4. SCALISE MADE NO RPT NO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE CONSULATE CONFIDENTIAL

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IN CHIANG MAI OR THE EMBASSY DURING HIS STAY IN THAILAND. CONSULAR SECTION OF EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO RECORD OF SCALISE OR ANY OF ALIASES HE REPORTEDLY USING. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW OR WHETHER SCALISE COULD ACTUALLY DELIVER ARMS TO BURMESE DISSIDENT GROUPS. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT HIS CONTACTS WITH THE DISSIDENT GROUPS MAY HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN HOPES OF EVENTUALLY MAKING SOME KIND OF NARCOTICS CONNECTION.

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